

Sea Grant Legal Network

Network Bylaws

Adopted Oct. 20, 2009

Amended January 18, 2011

Amended July 3, 2019

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE AND FUNCTION

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Sea Grant Legal Network (hereafter referred to as the Legal Network) is to raise awareness of Sea Grant’s law and policy programming; facilitate collaboration among those programs; and support Sea Grant law and policy efforts locally, regionally, and nationally.

Section 2. Function

The Legal Network shall serve the following functions:

- a. Represent the Sea Grant legal programs in relations with other organizational entities both within and outside of the Sea Grant network.
- b. Provide a forum for the discussion of issues of importance to Sea Grant and the legal programs.
- c. Support and encourage innovative law and policy programming at all levels, including regional efforts, and increase cooperative programming within the SGE network.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

Section 1. Membership

- a. The Legal Network is composed of
 - i. individuals with a J.D degree from an accredited U.S. law school or equivalent foreign law school; and
 - ii. employed by or receiving ongoing programmatic funding support from a Sea Grant College Program, Sea Grant Institutional Program, Sea Grant Coherent Area Program, or Sea Grant Project (hereinafter referred to as “Sea Grant Program”) to work on legal and policy issues.
- b. Representatives of entities associated with Sea Grant, such as the National Sea Grant Office, National Sea Grant Advisory Board, and Sea Grant Association, are not eligible for membership in the Legal Network but may participate in meetings.

Section 2. Quorum and Voting

- a. Two-thirds of members must participate in any meeting of the Legal Network to constitute a quorum. Participation via electronic means such as telephone or video conferencing shall constitute participation for the purposes of establishing a quorum.
- b. Questions arising at any meeting of the members shall be decided by a consensus of the members participating in the meeting. A consensus will be considered to have been reached when no member

objects to the question on the floor. Should the Chair determine, after a reasonable effort to achieve consensus has been made, that a consensus will not be reached regarding a particular question then the Chair shall refer the matter for further discussion before the next meeting in an attempt to achieve a consensus position.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

The Legal Network shall have the following officers: Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary.

Section 2. Duties of Officers

- a. Chair. The Chair shall preside at all meetings and conference calls of the Legal Network and serve as the Legal Network's liaison with the National Sea Grant Office, Sea Grant Association, the Sea Grant Assembly, and other Sea Grant networks. The Chair will also serve as a member of the SGA's Network Advisory Council and act as an ad hoc member of the SGA's Program Mission Committee. These duties will require, at a minimum, attendance at two yearly SGA meetings. If the Chair and Chair-Elect are unable to attend an SGA meeting, the Chair may designate any member to attend as the Legal Network representative.
- b. Chair-Elect. The Chair-Elect shall assume the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair and serve as the assistant to the Chair in his/her efforts for the good of the Legal Network. The Chair-Elect shall preside at all Legal Network meetings in the absence of the Chair.
- c. Secretary. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping accurate minutes of Legal Network meetings; maintaining the Legal Network membership roll and other records; scheduling quarterly meetings and sending notices of meetings to members; circulating minutes to members after meetings; and administering elections for officers of the Legal Network.

Section 3. Terms of Office

Officers shall serve for a term of two years, beginning on January 1, or until their successors are elected or determined by the vacant position procedure in Article IV. Upon completion of the Chair's term of office, the Chair-Elect shall succeed to the office of Chair.

ARTICLE IV – ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominations

Nominations for officer positions for the next two-year term will be solicited and accepted during the period of June 1 – July 15. Nominations, including self-nominations, must be submitted to the Secretary orally or by electronic mail. Any member nominated by someone else shall be notified no later than July 16 of his/her nomination and must accept or turn down the nomination by July 31.

Section 2. Ballot

The Secretary shall circulate a complete ballot with all candidates to all members by August 15 of the

election year. The Secretary shall tabulate the results of the election and notify the members of the results by September 15.

Section 3. Election Procedures

- a. The officers shall be elected by email or online ballot every other year in September.
- b. They shall take office on January 1 of the following year.
- c. Elected officers shall serve for the duration of their term or until their successors are elected or determined by the vacant position procedure in Section 5 below.

Section 4. Term Limits

No officer shall serve in the same role for consecutive two-year periods.

Section 5. Vacant Positions

- a. A vacancy in the office of Chair shall be filled by the Chair-Elect for the balance of the term.
- b. A vacancy in the office of the Chair-Elect, by function of the procedure set forth in Section 5(a) or for another reason, shall be filled by an election following the nomination and election procedures set forth in Article IV.
- c. If a position receives no nominee, the position shall be filled on a rotating basis by all Sea Grant Programs according to the schedule outlined in Appendix A. A Sea Grant Program with multiple members shall decide which member will serve in the vacant position.
 - i. Upon the entry of a new member into the Legal Network, their affiliated Sea Grant Program, if not in the current rotation, will be added to the bottom of the list.
 - ii. Upon the election of a member to an officer position, their affiliated Sea Grant program will rotate to the bottom of the list.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1. Quarterly Meetings

The Legal Network shall meet at least quarterly via teleconference. The purpose of the quarterly meeting is to provide members with updates from the Officers and members and attend to any business items.

Section 2. Biennial Meetings

The Legal Network shall meet in person, with a teleconference option if feasible, every two years in conjunction with Sea Grant Week or another Network-related event. The purpose of the biennial meeting is to increase awareness of the Legal Network and its activities and attend to any business items.

ARTICLE VI – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Legal Network in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and any special rules of order the Legal Network may adopt.

ARTICLE VII – BYLAW CHANGES

Section 1. Amendments.

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of members at any annual meeting, teleconference, or via email or online ballot provided that written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given to the membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting or the vote. The notice shall include the complete text of the amendment.

Section 2. Effective Date of Amendments.

Amendments to these by-laws shall take effect at the adjournment of the meeting or at the completion of the voting process unless otherwise provided.

Appendix A

Program Rotation Schedule

Updated as of May 21, 2019

Florida Sea Grant

Georgia Sea Grant

Hawaii Sea Grant

Louisiana Sea Grant (*Previous chair service 2012-2013*)

Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant

New York Sea Grant

North Carolina Sea Grant (*Previous chair service 2014-2015*)

Rhode Island Sea Grant (*Previous chair service 2016-2017*)

Virginia Sea Grant

Washington Sea Grant

National Sea Grant Law Center (*Previous chair service 2010-2011; 2018-2019*)